(d) by when the work with regard to conversion of National Highway into a six lane highway will be commenced and by when it will be completed; and

(e) the cost of the entire project under National Highway Development Programme-V?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Government has already approved the proposal to convert 6500 km long four lane National Highways into six lane National Highway under National Highway Development Project Phase-V (NHDP-V).

(b) to (d) Award of projects under NHDP Phase-V has commenced in the year 2006-07 and all the project are scheduled to be awarded by 2009-10. The construction time for projects would be 30 to 36 months, and all the projects are trageted to be completed by December, 2012.

(e) The estimated cost of NHDP Phase-V project is Rs. 41,210 crore.

Status of Colachal Port

211. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Colachal port in Tamil Nadu.

(b) whether Government have plans to develop this port; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Colachel port is a Non-Major port under the control of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) Being a Non-Major Port, the responsibility for the development of Colachel port vests in the Government of Tamil Nadu.